

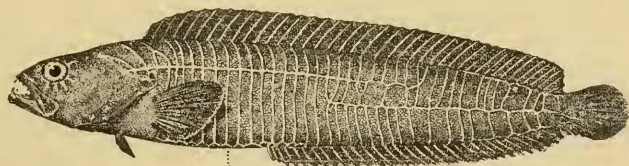
## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW BLENNIOID FISH FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY

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During the month of June, 1893, car No. 2 of the U. S. Fish Commission made a collection of fishes at Monterey, Cal., for its aquarium at the World's Columbian Exposition. Among the species obtained and delivered in Chicago alive is a sticharoid fish, which resembles a *Gunnell* in general appearance, and yet differs in some essential characters, and appears to represent an undescribed genus and species. It may be introduced into the literature under the name



*Plagiogrammus Hopikusii.*

### **PLAGIOGRAMMUS**, new genus.

Body moderately elongate, compressed, covered with very small scales; lateral lines, 2; viz., one beginning above and slightly in advance of the upper angle of the gill opening, and extending along the upper part of the body, but not reaching to the tail; one beginning in advance of the end of this and reaching to the caudal; numerous lateral ridges on the sides, similar to those on *Dictyosoma* of Temminck and Schlegel; a series of subpentagonal plate-like bodies along the abdominal edge on each side between the ventral and the anal. Head moderately long, naked, with pointed snout; mouth oblique and rather large. The jaws subequal, or the lower slightly projecting; jaws with strong teeth in broad bands, the intermaxilla with an outer series of enlarged canine-like teeth; teeth on vomer and palate; a pair of large canines near the symphysis in each jaw, the canines of the upper jaw fitting into an interspace behind the mandibular canines. A series of pores on the ramus of the mandibula continuing around the preopercular edge; a series of similar pores along the lower margin of the pre-orbital continued backward and upward towards the nape. Anterior nostril tubular; posterior without tube. Maxilla broadly expanded

posteriorly; lips well developed. Branchiostegals 5; gill membranes partly united, but free from the isthmus behind. Gill rakers minute, tubercular, in moderate number. A single long dorsal fin consisting of spines only. The spines longest in the posterior portion; anal fin lower than the dorsal, but similar in shape. Pectoral large, entirely below median line. Ventrals well developed, in advance of pectorals; caudal rounded, distinct. Intestinal canal short, with five small pyloric coeca.

*Plagiogrammus* **Hopkins**, new species.

The type of the description, U. S. N. M., No. 44721, is a single example, 6 inches long, obtained at Monterey, Cal., June 22, 1893.

D. XI; A. II, 29; r. I, 5; B. V. Scales about 95; ridges on side 32.

The greatest depth of the body, 1 inch, is contained  $5\frac{1}{3}$  times in the total length without caudal. The length of the head— $1\frac{5}{16}$  inches—is one-fourth of the total without caudal. The diameter of the eye is one-fifth of the length of the head. The snout is acute. The anterior nostril is tubular and nearer to the eye than to the tip of the snout. The posterior nostril is close to the upper anterior margin of the eye. The maxilla extends almost to the vertical through the hind margin of the eye. The intermaxilla is long and slender and reaches nearly as far back as the maxilla. The intermaxillary teeth are in broad bands, with an outer series of 5 or 6 large canines, those near the symphysis largest. The teeth in the mandible are in broad bands in front, followed by several enlarged canine-like teeth. A large canine on each side of the symphysis, the interspace between the two mandibular canines receiving the canines of the intermaxilla when the jaws are closed. A row of 8 pores along the ramus of the mandible and the edge of the preopercle; another series around the lower margin of the pre-orbital bone as described for the genus. About 8 gill rakers on the first arch below the angle.

The distance of the dorsal origin from the snout is nearly equal to the length of the head. The spines are lowest in front; the longest spine is two-sevenths of the length of the head. The longest rays of the anal are near the end of the fin and scarcely exceed the length of the eye. The length of the pectoral equals that of the postorbital part of the head. The ventrals are close together; the inner rays longest—two-sevenths as long as the head. The caudal is rounded, its length nearly one-half that of the head. The vent is under the eleventh spine of the dorsal.

The upper lateral line begins above and slightly in advance of the upper angle of the gill opening, curves very slightly over the pectoral and extends to below the twenty-fifth spine of the dorsal, its distance from the dorsal edge equal to the diameter of the eye and also equal to its distance from the lower lateral line. The lower lateral line begins under the sixteenth spine of the dorsal and extends to the caudal. On each side of the abdominal ridge, between the ventrals and the vent,

are located about 10 subpentagonal plate-like bodies, the largest about one-half as long as the eye.

Color dusky brown; the fins black.

Little is known about the habits of the species, beyond the fact that in the aquarium it hides in rock crevices and seldom ventures from its hiding place. I take pleasure in associating with this blenny the name of Mr. Timothy Hopkins, of Menlo Park, Cal., the founder of the Seaside Laboratory at Pacific Grove, Monterey Bay, in commemoration of his services in behalf of science.